

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECDEF WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9297

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JCS WASHDC

CSAF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

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SECDEF FOR ISA

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: MILI, PFOR NZ

SUBJECT: VISIT DEPSECDEF CLEMENTS: ARRIVAL STATEMENT AND
POSSIBLE PRESS QUESTIONS.

REF SECDEF 130112Z FEB 75

1. ARRIVAL STATEMENT: I AM VERY HAPPY THAT MRS CLEMENTS
AND I HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT NEW ZEALAND, A
COUNTRY THAT WE HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN TO BE ONE OF THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL IN THE WORLD. OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE FOR MANY
YEARS BEEN CLOSELY ALLIED AND WE, AS AMERICANS, HAVE
BEEN VERY PROUD OF THIS ASSOCIATION. WHILE THE
PURPOSE OF OUR TRIP IS TO MEET WITH THE LEADERS OF YOUR
COUNTRY ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, WE ALSO INTEND
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TO SPEND SOME TIME VISITING A FEW OF NEW ZEALAND'S

MANY BEAUTIFUL ATTRACTIONS DURING OUR SHORT STAY.

2. POSSIBLE QUESTIONS:

A) DO YOU EXPECT CONGRESS TO GRANT PRESIDENT FORD THE INCREASED FUNDING HE DEEMS NECESSARY FOR THE DEFENSE OF CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM?

B) IF CAMBODIA AND/OR SOUTH VIETNAM WERE TO FALL UNDER COUMMUNIST CONTROL HOW IN YOUR OPINION WOULD THIS AFFECT REGIONAL SECURITY?

C) HOW WILL THE PROABLE US MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM THAILAND AFFECT REGIONAL SECURITY?

D) WHAT REGIONAL ROLE DO YOU SEE IN THE FUTURE FOR ANZUS? FOR SEATO?

E) HAS SEATO OUTLIVED ITS USEFULNESS AS A MILITARY ALLIANCE?

F) ARE CURRENT TREATIES BETWEEN NZ AND THE US ADEQUATE?

G) IS THE US LIKELY TO DRASTICALLY CUTBACK ITS DEFENSE COMMITMENTS IN THIS REGION? IF CUTBACKS DO OCCUR WHAT FORM ARE THEY LIKELY TO TAKE?

H) WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DISCUSS WITH GNZ? IS YOUR VISIT A RESULT OF THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA? DOES IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH US REQUESTS FOR NZ TAKEOVER OF PORT FACILITIES IN SINGAPORE AS HAS BEEN ALLEGED IN NEWSPAPER STORIES ORIGINATING IN WASHINGTON? WHAT REQUESTS, IF ANY, ARE YOU MAKING TO THE GNZ ON THIS VISIT?

I) WHY IS A US DEFENSE PRESENCE NECESSARY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN? ISN'T FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF DIEGO GARCIA AS A MILITARY BASE A PROVOCATIVE FURTHER ESCALATION OF THE MILITARY BUILDUP IN THE AREA?

J) WHY IS IT NCESSARY FOR THE AIR FORCE TO RUN THE MR JOHN OBSERVATORY? WHAT POSSIBILITY IS THERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE OBSERVATORY BEING PLACED UNDER NZ CIVILIAN MANAGEMENT?

K) WHAT IS THE LIKLIHOOD OF US MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST? IS ANOTHER ARAB OIL BOYCOTT LIKELY TO TRIGGER SUCH INTERVENTION?

L) HOW HAS THE CYPRUS CONFLICT AFFECTED NATO'S DEFENSE ROLE IN EUROPE? HOW HAS THE CONGRESSIONAL ARMS EMBARGO

ON TURKEY AFFECTED THE US DEFENSE POSTURE IN THE AREA?

M) ISN'T THE US DECISION TO RESUME SELLING ARMS TO
PAKISTAN PROVOCATIVE?

N) ISN'T THE ROLE THE US IS PLAYING IN SUPPLYING ARMS
TO THE MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY IRAN AND SAUDI
ARABIA, APT TO RESULT IN FURTHER REGIONAL INSTABILITY AND
POSSIBLE ARMED CONFLICT?

O) HAS WATERGATE HAD A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON US DEFENSE
CAPABILITY OR CREDIBILITY OVERSEAS? IN WHAT WAYS HAS
IT CONTRIBUTED TO CONGRESSIONAL RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT
DEFENSE DEPARTMENT PLANS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, THE
MIDDLE EAST OR THE INDIAN OCEAN?

3. NZ PRESS GENERALLY NOT VERY AGGRESSIVE AND MOST OF
QUESTIONING SHOULD BE LOW KEY AND FRIENDLY. MORE
CONTENTIOUS QUESTIONS OUTLINED ABOVE ARE POSSIBLE BUT
LESS LIKELY TO BE ASKED. IF DEPSEC WILLING FIELD SOME
QUESTIONS ON ARRIVAL MEDIA COVERAGE OF VISIT IS MORE
LIKELY. SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS ON ACTUAL DISCUSSIONS WOULD
BE USEFUL AS DEPARTURE STATEMENT.

4. REQUEST DETAILED BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON DEPSEC.
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